

REMARKS

The indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5, 6, 12, 31, 32 and 39-41 is acknowledged and appreciated. In view of the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-4, 9, 10, 25-30 and 33-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Date '513, which is the sole pending rejection. This rejection is respectfully traversed because Date '513 is not prior art to the present application. That is, the filing date of Date '513 is December 4, 2003, whereas the effective filing date of the present application is July 29, 2003 based on the priority document of the present application. In order to perfect Applicants' claim to foreign priority, enclosed is a certified English translation of the foreign priority document for the present application (i.e., JP 2003-281848). Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Having fully responded to all matters raised in the Office Action, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, an indication for which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper,

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including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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